COMMANDERS DIGEST

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DOD Supports Bill To Raise Per Diem

The Department of Defense is supporting a bill to increase maximum rates of per diem allowance from $16 to $20. The Bill, H.R. 10897, would also increase the maximum allowance for reimbursement on an actual expense basis from $30 to $35 a day for such travel.

The increases would be for travel within the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia for members of the uniformed services.

Brig. Gen. William W. Berg, USAF, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (M&RA), Military Personnel Policy, said the recommendations for the increase were made by the Bureau of Budget.

Testifying before Subcommittee Number 3 of the House Armed Services Committee, Gen. Berg noted that there are identical provisions in H.R. 13738, a bill to increase the maximum rate of per diem allowance for civilian employees of the government traveling on official business, and for other purposes, and bill H.R. 10897, which is applicable to military personnel.

The general gave this background on reasons for the proposed increases:

Following introduction last March of H.R. 7113 to increase the maximum rate of per diem allowance for employees of the government traveling on official business, the Bureau of Budget again undertook a review of the adequacy of the statutory maximum per diem allowances for employees traveling within the 48 contiguous states and D.C.

The survey included detailed reports of employee travel from 18 principal Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense.

These agencies supplied data from

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Defense Department States Opposition To Criminal Penalties in Coercion Bill

The Department of Defense has taken a position strongly opposing the imposition of criminal penalties in the manner contemplated in bill S. 1036, dealing with persuasion or coercion of Armed Forces members in the solicitation of charitable contributions and the purchase of Government securities.

Appearing before Subcommittee Number 4 of the House Armed Services Committee, March 19, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Alfred B. Fitt said,

"We firmly believe that the existing legal machinery provided under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, our system of Department of Defense Directives and Military Department Regulations, and our administrative and management system and procedures, already supply all of the authority needed to cope with any problems in the area addressed by S. 1036."

The bill could make criminal acts out of errors of judgment, excesses of zeal, misunderstood communications, or misinterpreted actions or motives.

Secretary Fitt stated, "We believe it is precisely these categories of conduct, and no more, which have been involved. The Department of Defense does not consider criminal sanctions as enlightened, effective or appropriate measures for dealing with such conduct. Administrative personnel action is eminently more suitable, and the sharp drop in complaints during this past year indicates that administrative action has been effective as well."

The secretary had noted that in 16 months there have been only four justified complaints of coercive practice out of a total military and civilian force numbering 4½ million people. This, he said, "clearly attests to the effectiveness of our effort to have voluntary, and only voluntary, participation in Savings Bond and charitable campaigns."

Mr. Fitt said the new DOD Directive number 5035.6, "Solicitation of DOD Personnel to Voluntarily Pur-

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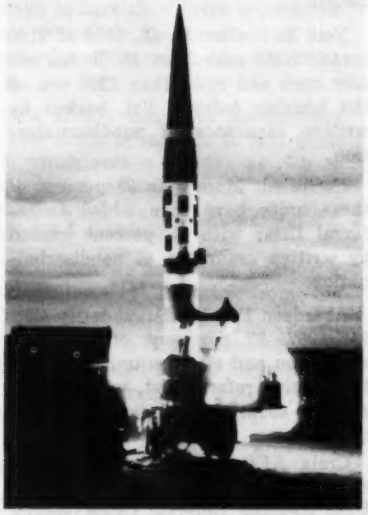

LIFT-OFF—The first Pershing Missile to be launched by the newly-developed 1-A ground support system starts lift-off from an improved erector-launcher during research and development firing tests Mar. 5. The launch was from Hueco Range, Ft. Bliss, Tex., impact at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

RECORD SORTIE TOTAL—Cols. George W. McLaughlin (left), 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing commander, and Robert A. Coury, vice wing commander, display the wing flag after Col. McLaughlin flew the unit's 75,000th combat sortie. The wing is the first Air Force unit in Southeast Asia to reach that mark. The unit began operations in RVN Nov. 3, 1965.

Per Diem Allowances

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12,025 employee travel experiences, covering 63,710 man-days of travel. The data supplied included average hotel, meal and miscellaneous expenses for each employee travel experience and the average daily amount by which such expenses exceeded the per diem allowance authorized.

The average daily subsistence expense for this group was $19.21. These results support an increase in the present statutory maximum of $16 per diem in order to adequately compensate military personnel for the reasonable expenses of travel on official business.

The adequacy of a $20 maximum per diem is also supported by the results of a nation-wide sampling of hotel lodging and restaurant meal costs which was made by the Bureau of the Budget through arrangements with the Bureau of the Census.

DOD Cites Ten Military Installations For Work in Equal Off-Base Housing

Ten military installations have been cited for "outstanding performance" in the Department of Defense Program for Equal Opportunity in Off-Base Rental Housing.

A DOD memorandum to the secretary of each military department said, "The progress at these installations was achieved only by the dedicated efforts of personnel carrying out their responsibilities to the nation and their comrades in the highest tradition to the Armed Services of the United States."

Installations cited were Fort McClellan and Craig AFB, Ala.; Fort Ord, Vandenberg AFB and Naval Air Station, Imperial Beach, Ream Field, Calif.; Aberdeen Proving Ground and Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Md.; Kirtland AFB, N.M., and Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The memos gave the following statistics:

Fort McClellan: In all, 1800 of 2100 rental units near Fort McClellan are now open and more than 1200 are on the housing referral list, backed by written assurance of nondiscrimination.

Fort Ord: More than 98 percent of these units have been added to referral lists; with 88 percent backed by written assurance of nondiscrimination.

Aberdeen Proving Ground: By Dec. 31, 1967, 87 per cent of all units were open and all open units were on the housing referral list, supported by written assurance of nondiscrimination.

Craig AFB: More than 90 percent of suitable units are listed in the Off-Base Housing Referral Office, almost all of them confirmed in writing.

Vandenberg AFB: All of the 4500 suitable units originally surveyed are now on the off-base housing referral list.

Kirtland AFB: By January, more than 3600 off-base rental units were open to all races. All listings at the Housing Referral Office reflected explicit nondiscrimination assurances.

NAS Ream Field: Seventy-seven facilities, with more than 4900 units, are listed with the Housing Referral Office, 56 percent of them backed by written assurances.

NAS Glenview: A total of 26 previously non-open facilities have converted to an open status. Fifteen facilities have been added to the census in an open status. More than 99 percent of all units are now open and listed with the Housing Referral Office.

NTC Bainbridge: Operators of all 13 suitable non-open facilities in the area converted to an open status. Beginning at 59 percent open, the NTC Bainbridge census now shows 100 percent open units.

Camp Lejeune: Listings at the Base Housing Referral Office have increased steadily until all open facilities, with more than 3800 units, are now listed.

Much of the progress was attributed to "excellent community relations" and personal contact by commanders.

May Draft Call Set at 44,000

DOD has requested the Selective Service System to provide 44,000 inductees in May, 1968. All will be assigned to the Army.

The May request puts the total number of men requested during 1968 at 190,300.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Coercion

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chase United States Savings Bonds," places special emphasis upon the principle of voluntary participation. (Commanders Digest, March 6, 1968).

He added, "The secretaries of each of the military departments have also issued numbered directives which specifically address, and unequivocably prohibit, the use of compulsion, coercion, or threats of reprisal in the conduct of Federal Campaigns:

• Army Regulation 608-15: States that any practice that involves compulsion, coercion or reprisal directed toward individual servicemen or civilian employees, has no place in the program.

• Secretary of the Navy Instr. 5120.5: Reiterates the need for constant vigilance in the conduct of U.S. Savings Bond Campaigns to preserve and assure true voluntary participation.

• Air Force Manual 211.5: Emphasizes that coercion to induce Savings Bond purchases by individual servicemen or civilian employees is in direct contravention of Executive Branch policy.

"These Directives and Instructions clearly, concisely, and unequivocally record the firm prohibition against compulsion, coercion or reprisal within the Federal Service and within the Department."

Referring to S. 1036, Secretary Fitt said:

"The bill seeks to draw a fine line between management persuasion and management coercion of Armed Forces members to buy bonds or make contributions. The bill does no more than reflect existing Executive Branch policy on this score—but it attaches criminal penalties for breaches of the policy. We are convinced that creating a specific new crime in the context of demonstrably worthy programs—the encouragement of bond purchases and the support of charities—is neither necessary nor desirable."

Army Under Secretary Cites Importance Of Science, Industry, Gov't. Relationships

The interlocking roles of science, industry and government in the development of modern, reliable weapons without becoming engaged in "a mindless multiplication of armaments" is an important phase of the nation's defense posture, according to David E. McGiffert, Under Secretary of the Army.

A necessary result of the "highly dangerous world in which we live," technical competition in the development of arms imposes a special responsibility on government and industry, Mr. McGiffert said during opening ceremonies for the Army's exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, March 14.

Among the responsibilities which must be shared in arms development is an effort to be certain "that we don't go too fast." The U.S. possesses such an enormous technical competence "that it is very tempting always to stretch a little beyond the state of art" in the development and production of weapons, Mr. McGiffert said.

"We always also have the question of how much is enough. It is a question which even a country as rich as ours cannot afford to have answered incautiously. We must buy only what we really need.

"Although we have been fighting a war, we have not departed from this principle," he stated.

Two of the several guidelines currently being used by the Department of Defense in arms development, production and procurement are:

• Procure in order to give the commander what he needs, and

• Provide for the commander's needs without generating the huge surpluses left behind after past wars.

"You all remember the acres of rusting airplanes built for World War II but never used. After the Korean War we had $12 billion worth of surplus material.

"We are trying to procure for the Vietnam war in such a way that when it ends we will have little excess equipment or supplies. This is possible because advanced management techniques enable us to predict needs more accurately and manage distribution more efficiently," Mr. McGiffert added.

David E. McGiffert

These techniques, he said, are part of the management revolution which has taken place in the Defense Department during the past seven years. Although massive in its scope, the "management revolution" has been accomplished during the same period in which a major change in the U.S. military doctrine—from massive retaliation to flexible response—was made.

The change in military doctrine has involved a major increase in the more "conventional forces" with its attendant increase in the development and production of conventional weapons.

"That it was accomplished rapidly and effectively is indicated by the fact that we have been able to field a force of half a million men in Vietnam without a call-up of the reserves and at the same time without lessening our commitments elsewhere in the world."

HIGH FLYING GUNBOAT—The Navy's newest hydrofoil gunboat Tucumcari makes one of its last test runs prior to the craft's delivery to the Navy Mar. 7. Capable of cruising at more than 40 knots, the craft has no conventional propeller but is powered by a water jet propulsion system.

DOD Recommends Approval of Bill To Standardize Reserve Medical Benefits

The Department of Defense has recommended Congressional approval of a bill that would both expand and standardize medical and dental benefits for reserve forces.

Under the proposed legislation (H.R. 14739), reservists and members of the National Guard who fall ill or are injured while undergoing inactive duty training, full-time training or duty, or active duty of 30 days or less would receive substantially the same hospitalization and medical care, pay and allowances, burial and other benefits provided for those who are ordered to active duty for 30 days or more.

The bill also would grant those personnel injured in line of duty while proceeding to and from inactive duty training or active duty the same benefits they would receive if injured during a scheduled period of duty or training.

In addition, the bill provides for travel and transportation allowances, including commuted mileage, for travel performed incident to medical or surgical care, or hospitalization.

The bill would provide coverage, to include separation or retirement benefits for physical disability, when personnel are injured in line of duty while proceeding directly to or from inactive duty training; from the time they arrive at the training site and until the training period begins; after the training period ends and before they begin return travel home, and between training periods on the same or consecutive days, under regulations prescribed by the service secretaries and approved by the Secretary of Defense.

Payment of burial costs also would be authorized if personnel die as a result of such injury. At present, neither the military services nor the Veterans Administration is authorized to pay such burial costs.

Excluded from this coverage would be disease or illness incurred or aggravated during travel to or from inactive duty training; before or after the training period, or during any interval between training periods on the same or consecutive days.

DOD, Industry Form Advisory Committee On Assets Management

The Department of Defense has joined with the industrial community to form a joint DOD-Industry Assets Management Systems Advisory Committee where defense and industry representatives can discuss problems involved in the implementation of resource management systems.

According to DOD officials, these systems provide the defense establishment and industrial managers with information necessary to evaluate contractual progress and the utilization of labor, technical skills, materials and other resources involved in major defense contracts.

The committee is comprised of representatives of the Secretary of Defense staff offices, the Defense Supply Agency, the military services and recognized industry associations representing defense contractors in aerospace, automotive, electronic and shipbuilding industries.

Committee Functions

Defense officials said the committee will be guided by a charter and the stated objectives within DOD Directive 7000.1, "Resource Management Systems of the Department of Defense." Functions of the committee, as stated in the charter, are to:

- Serve as a nucleus for constructive DOD-industry collaboration in implementation of resource management systems;
- Provide timely information from industry to DOD concerning current implementation problems associated with the installation of these systems that affect both DOD and industry;
- Consider industry-recommended solutions to implementation problems of resource management systems, and
- Recommend, where possible, solutions to implementation problems on these systems.

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